

fed to farm cats, which are major reservoir hosts for fishborne liver and intestinal trematodes. Infections (prevalence 8.3%) in snakehead fish (*Channa* spp.) also represent a food safety risk, because snakehead fish are cultured in Vietnam and are sometimes eaten raw or inadequately cooked. In addition to *O. viverrini* flukes, metacercariae of the zoonotic intestinal flukes *Centrocestus formosanus*, *Haplorchis tai-chui*, and *H. yokogawi* were recovered from snakehead and barb fish (online Technical Appendix Table 1), all of which are common throughout Southeast Asia (1).

The results of this study demonstrate that the human liver fluke *O. viverrini* is endemic to Vietnam and that it is being naturally transmitted to fish species that are often consumed raw or inadequately cooked. For determination of the prevalence, distribution, and epidemiology of *O. viverrini* flukes in fish, humans, and reservoir hosts (e.g., cats and dogs), these results need to be extended,

especially because aquaculture is a growing industry in Vietnam.

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etymologia

Opisthorchis

[o"pis-thor'kis]

From the Greek *opisthen* (behind) and *orchis* (testicle), *Opisthorchis* is a genus of trematode flatworms whose testes are located in the posterior end of the body. Rivolta is generally credited with discovering the first opisthorchid, which he named *Distoma felineus*, in a cat in Italy in 1884. However, the fluke may have been mentioned by Rudolphi in 1819, and in 1831,

Gurlt published a textbook that included a drawing of a fluke that was almost certainly *Opisthorchis*. By the end of the 19th century, *Distoma* contained so many species that Blanchard introduced the genus *Opisthorchis* for elongated flat flukes with testes in the posterior end of the body. He chose Rivolta's *Opisthorchis felineus* as the type species.

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